ly resembles the Veratrum album in its external habitudes. The result of such trials as have been made, establishes beyound a doubt the medicinal similarity of these two vegetables. I have employed the American plant in dispensary practice in the treatment of obstinate cases of chronic rheumatism. Other practitioners have applied it to the treatment of gout, and of cutaneous and other affections. From the sum of my observations and knowledge respecting it, I am satisfied that the root, when not impaired by long exposure and age, is in sufficient doses a strong emetic, commencing its operation tardily, but continuing in many instances for a long time; in large doses affecting the functions of the brain and nervous system in a powerful manner, producing giddiness, impaired vision, prostration of strength and diminution of the vital powers. Like the Veratrum album and Colchicum antunmale, the violent impression which it makes upon the system has arrested the paroxysms of gout and given relief in some unyielding cases of protracted rheumatism. Like those substances, it requires to be given with great caution and under vigilant restrictions. The solutions of this article have appeared to me more powerful in proportion to their quantity than the substance, probably in consequence of a part of

the powder being thrown out in the first efforts to vomit, before a perfect solution of its active parts in the stomach could have taken place.

A course of experiments with this article was made sometime since in the Boston Almshouse by Dr. John Ware, the results of which he has obligingly communicated to me. They cannot be better stated than in his own words.

"I gave this plant," says he, "in the first place with a view to ascertain its action on the stomach and alimentary canal. The doses in which it was administered amounted to from two to ten grains. I began with a small quantity, and increased it very gradually in order to guard against the occurrence of those violent and dangerous effects which I had been led to apprehend from the descriptions given of the operation of the white hellebore. A slight and general account of the experiments will give the most satisfactory view of the effects of this root as an emetic.

"It was administered in about thirty cases. *In the first case* two grains were given; this only produced slight and temporary nausea.

"*In three* instances three grains were administered; in two of these vomiting was produced; in one of them to a considerable degree—in the other slight—in the third no effect whatever was

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